

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are pending.

Claim 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,957,591, hereinafter Takafuji.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' foreign priority claim is perfected in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(3) in view of the enclosed verified translation of the foreign priority document. Takafuji's February 14, 2003 filing date is therefore antedated by this application's July 17, 2002 foreign priority date. In other words, as a result of perfection of this application's foreign priority, Takafuji has been removed as prior art with respect to this application.

Accordingly, Claim 1, 5 and 6 are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1, 5 and 6 as being anticipated by Takafuji is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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